**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 4, line 9 as follows:

Figure 1 schematically illustrates a passenger conveyor system 20. This example shows an escalator, but this invention is not so limited. Other conveyors are within the scope of this invention, such as moving walkways. This passenger conveyor system 20 includes steps 24 configured to travel in a loop and having a tread surface 26 and a rise surface 28. A drive assembly ~~28~~29 moves the plurality of steps 24 in a desired direction. The opposing ends of each step 24 include a disc member 46. A bridge 49 is positioned between the disc members 46 of adjacent steps 24 to close the gap between the disc members 46.

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 4, line 17 as follows:

As shown in Figure 2, the drive assembly ~~28~~29 includes a plurality of stepchain links 30 which form a continuous loop. The stepchain links 30 have a plurality of teeth 32 that engage an outer surface 34 of a drive member 36. Preferably, the outer surface 34 of the drive member 36 has a profile that corresponds to the profile of the plurality of teeth 32. In one example, each tooth 32 has a height of 5 mm and a pitch of 20 mm.

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 4, line 23 as follows:

The drive member 36 in one example preferably has a width X of 65 mm wide and the stepchain links 30 preferably have a width Y of 70 mm (shown in Figure 10). The drive member 36 in one example is a belt that is formed of polyurethane and includes a plurality of cords. In this example, the plurality of cords are made of steel or ~~Kevlar~~ KEVLAR ® (or synthetic fiber) and are the tensile carrying portion of the drive member 36. The drive member 36 is formed by placing the cords in a two piece mold. Polyurethane is introduced into the mold, integrating the plurality of cords within the polyurethane. In such an arrangement, as the drive member 36 is polyurethane, lubrication is not needed between the stepchain links 30 and the drive member 36 as there is no metal-to-metal engagement. In another example, the drive member 36 is a drive chain.

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 5, line 3 as follows:

A drive sheave 38 engages an inner surface 40 ~~and the plurality of cords~~ of the drive member 36 to move the drive member 36 around a loop. An idle sheave 42 is positioned at an opposite end of the loop from the drive sheave 38. A drive mechanism 44 is schematically shown for moving the drive sheave 38 in the desired direction and at the desired speed. The drive mechanism 44 includes a motor and a braking mechanism as known in the art, for example. Preferably, the passenger conveyor system 20 includes two drive members 36 running in parallel at the lateral edges of the steps 24 and two sets of continuous stepchain links 30. Each set of continuous stepchain links 30 cooperates with one of the drive members 36.

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 6, line 10 as follows:

Figure 6 illustrates an example pair of stepchain links 130a and 130b. The first end 168b of the stepchain link 130b is inserted between the two spaced apart portions 174a and 175a of stepchain link ~~120a~~130a. As shown in Figure 7, the holes 170b, 176a and 178a are aligned and receive an attachment member 184, securing the stepchain links 130a and 130b together. A cap 186 and a stepchain roller 188 are attached to the opposing ends of the attachment member 184. The shouldered attachment member 184 secures the stepchain links 130a and 130b and is press fit in the hole 170b, fixing the distance between the wheel 64 and the cap 186.

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 7, line 23 as follows:

As shown in Figure 8B, an attachment member 284 is inserted in the aligned holes 264 of one link and 266 of an adjacent link to secure the inner portions of the links together. The holes 266 are larger than the holes 264, and needle bearings (not shown) are press fit in the holes 266, eliminating the need for lubrication. The attachment member 284 is press fit in the holes 264 of the stepchain links 230b and in the needle bearings in the holes 266 of the stepchain links 230b. The needle bearings rotate around the attachment member 284. A cap 286 and a stepchain roller 288 are attached to the opposing ends of the attachment ~~mechanism~~member 284 after the attachment member 284 is inserted. The inventive arrangement allows for a wide stepchain link 130, 230 and ~~belt~~ drive member 36 interface (shown in Figure 10) without having an undesirably high link weight. Preferably, the interface between the stepchain links 130, 230 and the ~~belt~~ drive member 36 is 40 mm to 100 mm. Most preferably, the interface is 65 mm. There is also a substantially constant teeth 132 width and pitch across the span between adjacent teeth 132. The inner portions are advantageously heavier gauge steel in one example compared to the outer portions. The inner portions are strong enough to bear the tensile loads while the outer portions 272 provide more surface area for better engagement with the drive member ~~32.~~36. But the outer portions 272 need not carry the tensile loads.

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 8, line 21 as follows:

Returning to Figures 8C and 8D, the sides 274 and 276 of each outer portion 272 include a plurality of attachment holes 290 that align with the attachment holes 270 of the corresponding inner portions. An attachment member 282 is inserted into the aligned holes 270 and 290 to secure the outer portion 272 to the inner portions. When assembled, the outer portion 272 of one stepchain link 230 does not contact the outer portion 272 of an adjacent stepchain link 230. As shown in Figure 8E, the attachment members 282 are inserted in the aligned attachment holes 270 and 290 and rotated up to 45° to create an interference fit.

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 9, line 11 as follows:

Figure 12A illustrates a top view of an attachment member 282. Figure 10 shows the attachment member 282 inserted into the aligned holes 270 and 290 of a stepchain link 230. Each attachment member 282 includes a plurality of flanges 292 that are spaced to receive the link portions between them. In one example, the ~~each~~ flanges 292 extend continually around the outer surface of the attachment member 282. The flanges 292 are positioned on opposite sides of grooves 293 between the flanges 292.

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 9, line 18 as follows:

Figures 12B illustrates ~~an~~a cross-sectional end view of the attachment member 282 of Figure 12A. As shown, the corners of the grooves 293 are more rounded than the corners of the flanges 292. The attachment members 282 preferably are inserted such that the grooves 293a align with the holes 290 of the outer portion 272, the grooves 293b align with the holes 270 of the outwardly inner portions 262 of the stepchain links 230a, and the grooves 293c align with the holes 270 of the inwardly inner portions 262 of the stepchain links 230b.

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 10, line 3 as follows:

As seen in Figure 8D, a bridge support 280 attached to ~~the~~an inner portion provides a support for the bridge 49 during operation of the conveyor system 20 similar to the bridge support 180 of Figure 4. The bridge support 280 is preferably attached to an inner portion by welding, pins, or the like.

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 10, line 7 as follows:

Another example link configuration is shown in Figure 13. An injection molded plate ~~292~~295 having teeth 294 is snapped on the inner portions 262 and secured by an attachment member 296. The attachment member 296 can be a screw, pin, or another known fastener. The plate ~~292~~295 provides a non-metallic drive member engagement surface on the links. By employing the plate ~~292~~295 of injection molded teeth 294, corrosion is reduced.

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 10, line 20 as follows:

The outer portions ~~are~~ may take a variety of forms, depending on the selected method of securing the inner an outer portions together. Those skilled in the art who have the benefit of this description will be able to select the best component design to met their particular needs.